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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Roman Life in Latin Prose and Verse.* Illustrated Readings from Latin Literature. Selected and edited by Professors H. T. PECK and ROBERT ARROWSMITH. New York : American Book Co.

The development of the modern American text-book would be a most interesting study. From the old Cooper's Virgil, for instance, to the handsome volume before us is an immense leap, while between the latter and some of the other earlier text-books of the century is, as it were, a great gulf fixed. In binding, paper, typography, and illustrations, this book of Professors Peck and Arrowsmith certainly leaves nothing to be desired. It is clear that one application of art in education is to be found in the production of attractive text-books. Possibly if the present tendency continues the next generation of pupils will be like the elegant lady who could read her prayers only from a prayer book bound in morocco.

If we turn from the form to the contents we find this book equally attractive in this point. Many of the extracts are new, never having been presented before to an American public, at least with a commentary in the vernacular, and the old extracts are well chosen for the purpose of the book. This purpose is to give "in concise and practical form an outline of the development of Roman literature from its earliest days, as illustrated in the most characteristic and striking passages that have descended to us." The passages are undoubtedly characteristic and striking ; whether the superlative applies to them, or not, may in some cases be a matter of opinion. Others might have made different selections from the familiar authors, like Caesar, Cicero, Vergil, and Ovid. It is a question, also, whether "striking" passages give the best idea of general literature.

This book is somewhat like the manuals that accompany text-books on English literature. It gives "specimens" in the hope that thus the study of Latin will be made more attractive and a desire for more extended reading will be aroused. It is to be used as a collection of literary gems, not as a drill-book in parsing. We find here all sorts and conditions of "gems," from a nursery song and a Roman drinking bout to the descent into hell and the Dies Irae. There are twelve pages from

Lucretius and eight from Juvenal, which seems rather a large proportion.

The notes, the introductions to the different authors, and the bibliography, together with the suggestions for collateral reading, are admirable. Three classes of students have been kept in mind in the preparation of this book. Those who can devote only a limited time to the study of Latin, those who need practice in sight-reading, and those who desire a manual of Latin literature. In our opinion the price of the book and the character of the extracts make it practical only, or mainly, for the third class of readers. It certainly is not a book for secondary schools. We do not believe it will lend itself very well to sight-reading. But for those who have already acquired a love for Latin and wish to love it more, it is eminently attractive and inspiring.

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*The First Four Books of Xenophon's Anabasis.* With notes adapted to the Latest Edition of Goodwin's Greek Grammar, and to the Hadley-Allen Greek Grammar. Revised Edition. Edited by WILLIAM W. GOODWIN, LL. D., and D. C. L., Eliot Professor of Greek Literature, and JOHN WILLIAMS WHITE, Ph. D., Professor of Greek in Harvard University. Boston: Ginn & Co. 1894.

A hasty reading of the preface of this book might easily give the impression that the new edition does not differ essentially from the old, and that the publishers had merely availed themselves of the opportunity offered by the wearing out of the old plates, to present an old friend in a new and more attractive dress. Such, however, would be a great error, for in adopting the text of Arnold Hug the editors have subjected the commentary to a most thorough revision. In numerous instances the interpretations of the old edition have been modified, and still oftener, where they have been retained, they have been recast and put in a form much better adapted to the wants of the pupil. An introduction of fifty pages, prepared by Mr. White, gives a brief account of Persia and the Persians, and of Cyrus, the younger, and discusses at greater length the military arrangements of the Greeks.

One of the most important features of the present edition is the illustrated dictionary to the entire Anabasis, the work of